28th January 1929]

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" May I know whether the Government propose to help the depressed classes in any way to enable them to bring these lands under cultivation ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I do not follow that question, Sir."

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" May I know whether, in view of the fact that these are dry lands which are difficult to be brought under cultivation, Government would consider the desirability of giving these lands free of assessment for the first few years."

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" The suggestion will be considered, Sir."

Public Service

Communal representation in public service.

*1013-A *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government have issued an order fixing a percentage for the representation of various communities in several departments of the public services both as to recruitment and promotion ;

(*b*) if so, what departments it covers ;

(*c*) whether promotions have been made in the Registration department on the basis of that order ; and

(*d*) whether they will be pleased to place before the Council the several Government Orders passed on this subject recently and a list of promotions, if any, made on that basis in every department ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 740—C. answered on 27th November 1928.

(*c*) The order applies to recruitment to the Madras Registration service and not to promotions in that service.

(*d*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer to clause (C) of question No. 614 answered on the 26th November 1928, as regards the first part of the question. As regards the second part of the question, the hon. Member is referred to the answer given above to clause (*c*).

*1013-B *Q.*—Mr. C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to lay on the table the various orders of the Government in the different departments, with regard to the introduction of communal representation in public services in the matter of recruitments, promotions and selections ?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 614 (C) on 26th November 1928.

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*1013-C *Q.*—Mr. K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have adopted it as a principle in making promotions of public servants that a public servant should not be promoted, even if he is qualified on grounds of seniority and merit, by reason of the fact that he belongs to a particular race, creed, class or community or in order to secure proportionate representation of communities; and

(*b*) if so, when this principle was adopted?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer to clause (*a*) is in the negative. The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 740-C answered on 27th November 1928 for information as to the nature of the orders that have been passed regarding *recruitment* to Provincial Services.

Reforms

Approximate cost of the Legislative Council Committee for conferring with the Parliamentary Commission.

*1014 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. Saldanha: Will the hon the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the approximate cost of the Legislative Council Committee appointed to jointly confer with the Parliamentary Commission regarding reforms and for holding its meeting at Madras and elsewhere, separately from or in collaboration with the Commission; and

(*b*) from what sources and under what headings in the budget estimates it will fall, what appropriations the Government will make and whether any and, if so, when a demand for additional or supplementary grant will be made in the Council?

A.—(*a*) The estimated cost at the rates already sanctioned by the Government is detailed below:—

	RS.
(1) Travelling and daily allowances of the Chairman and Members (including the travelling and halting allowances of the staff of the Committee)	21,000
(2) Pay and allowances of the Secretary to the Committee	14,000
(3) Pay of establishment, contingencies, etc. ...	10,000
Total	45,000

The Committee has however asked for higher daily allowances and if these rates are sanctioned, the estimated cost will be increased by Rs. 37,000; the Committee's request is under the consideration of the Government.

(*b*) The cost of the Committee is debitable to the head "22. R.B.a. General Administration—Legislative Bodies—Provincial Legislative Council." The expenditure during the current year on item (1) above will be met from the sanctioned